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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY MARCH 3, 2010
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FORMER SUBURBAN DENTIST SENTENCED TO 17½ YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR RECEIVING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

CHICAGO – A former suburban dentist was sentenced today to 17½ years in federal prison for receiving child pornography, much of which contained images of extreme sexual exploitation of real minor children, announced Patrick J. Fitzgerald, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois. The defendant, **John Mantanes**, 50, formerly of Park Ridge, who had a dental office in Mt. Prospect, was immediately taken into federal custody and must serve at least 85 percent of the 210-month sentence before he will be eligible for release.

The sentence was imposed by U.S. District Judge Ruben Castillo in Federal Court in Chicago, who said the sentence was required to provide the deterrence and treatment necessary in this case. The sentence was imposed after a hearing in which Mantanes' own mental health expert testified that Mantanes is a pedophile who is excessively preoccupied with sexual fantasies and deviant sexual impulses. There were no allegations or findings that Mantanes had molested any children, but the court found that this was not a mitigating factor, given the seriousness of his conduct with respect to images and videos of children as young as infants being abused. Mantanes faced a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison and the advisory United States Sentencing Guidelines called for a sentencing range between 210 and 240 months in prison.

“My sentence is meant in no uncertain terms to incapacitate you,” Judge Castillo said in imposing the sentence. The judge also imposed a five-year term of court supervision after Mantanes is released from custody, noting that by then, Mantanes will be in his late 60s.

Mantanes was arrested on Jan. 16, 2009, and pleaded guilty last September to one count of receiving child pornography via computer. According to court documents, his child pornography collection consisted of some 1,380 images and 141 videos of real children, including prepubescent children, engaged in bestiality, sadistic and masochistic sexual conduct, among other activities.

At the sentencing hearing today, testimony showed that Mantanes’ interest in child pornography spiraled deeper and deeper after initially downloading images via his computer.

“This case stands as an example that wading into the criminal marketplace of child pornography can result ultimately in lengthy prison sentences,” Mr. Fitzgerald said.

The case was investigated by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in Chicago.

The government is being represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Steven Grimes.

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